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April 22, 2013

Committee on Regulatory Reform  
The Honorable Representative Hugh D. Crawford-Chair  
887 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Henry Schienebeck, Executive Director for the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association. The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) is a non-profit organization representing nearly 1,000 members and their employee's. Membership includes loggers, log truckers, foresters, landowners, sawmills, OSB mills, pulp and paper mills, sportsman and sportswomen, and equipment sales/manufacturers throughout Michigan and Wisconsin. GLTPA members share a vested interest in the forest resource as demonstrated by our commitment to excellence in forest management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor of HB 4242. GLTPA and its nearly 1,000 members plus their employees support HB 4242 as a reasonable way to develop rules while maintaining the ability for businesses to remain financially viable.

Simply stated, HB 4242 is a piece of legislation creating a system of accountability as to how a rule might affect an individual. Too often rules/regulations formulated with good intentions fail to account for their need, practicality and true cost of implementation verses benefits.

Individuals are often entrepreneurs who operate small businesses. Sole proprietor businesses, and large companies for that matter, no longer have adequate profits to absorb the cost of implementation for what may be an unnecessary rule or regulation.

In GLTPA's opinion it seems reasonable to place the responsibility for researching the impact of a rule on the requesting agency before such a rule becomes mandatory. HB 4242 states "A demonstration that the proposed rule is necessary and suitable to achieve its purpose in proportion to the burdens on an individual" and does exactly that. In fact, it seems a prudent and efficient use of time to have analysis done before a rule is written and may well prove to be cost effective for many agencies and legislators.

The creation of rules without the proper research such as that suggested in HB 4242 tend to have immeasurable negative impacts on Michigan businesses resulting in the loss of jobs and employment. Understanding the times we're in are key to the success of any individual, company or state such as Michigan. HB 4242 will help to insure the burdens placed on businesses are both necessary and cost effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board and Members of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association,

Mark Huempfer, GLTPA Board President

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director